



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 22 2015

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sinema:

Thank you for your letter of July 28, 2015, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) proposed rule. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

As you know, the EPA sets NAAQS to protect public health and the environment from six common pollutants, including ground-level ozone. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to review these standards every five years to ensure that they are sufficiently protective. On November 25, 2014, the EPA proposed to strengthen the NAAQS for ground-level ozone, based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects.

As you note we have made great progress in improving air quality and public health in the United States, and it has not come at the expense of our economy. Indeed, over the past 40 years, air pollution has decreased by nearly 70 percent while the economy has tripled. The recently adopted clean air regulations you mention will certainly improve ozone levels across the country, and as a result, we expect more areas to have improved air quality in the future.

I appreciate your comments on the ozone proposal and have asked my staff to place your letter in the docket for the rulemaking.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Josh Lewis in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at lewis.josh@epa.gov or (202) 564-2095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Janet G. McCabe", is positioned above the typed name.

Janet G. McCabe
Acting Assistant Administrator